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4-18-1988

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/18/1988 - EIU President Addresses Need For Increased Funding For Education" (1988). 1988. 162.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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88-170

April 18, 1988

FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

CHARLESTON, IL--Dr. Stanley Rives, President of Eastern Illinois University, prompted members of the Decatur Rotary Club Monday (April 18) to contact their state legislators about the plight of education in Illinois.

The campaign to encourage local leaders to write or call their legislators asking for increased funding for education follows an announcement by Gov. James R. Thompson that his budget for next year provides no additional funding for elementary-secondary and higher education.

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RIVES

Rives said Illinois colleges and universities, including Eastern, are suffering from a severe case of declining funds. The state reduced revenue for education last year and Thompson's proposed "level" funding plan for fiscal year 1989 will have a major impact on the quality of education at all levels, he added.

Inadequate state funding has created continuing problems for higher education, Rives stressed. At Eastern and other universities, faculty are leaving for jobs in other states, classes have been cut, class sizes have been increased and there has been a serious shortage of equipment for instructional purposes.

Statistically, Illinois ranks 42nd among the 50 states in per capita spending on higher education.

The situation can only be reversed if taxpayers let their legislators know how important it is to increase state funding for education, Rives emphasized.